



**Date:** April 26, 2021

**To:** The Honorable Luz Rivas, Chair  
The Honorable Heath Flora, Vice Chair  
Members, Assembly Natural Resources Committee

**From:** Rex D. Frazier, President  
Seren Taylor, Senior Legislative Advocate  
Deanna LaTour-Jarquin, Legislative Advocate

**Re:** AB 926 (Mathis) Fire prevention: local assistance grant program: projects: report, as amended March 8, 2021.

**PIFC Position: Support**

The Personal Insurance Federation of California (PIFC) is a statewide trade association that represents seven of the nation's largest property and casualty insurance companies including (State Farm, Farmers, Liberty Mutual Insurance, Progressive, Mercury, Nationwide and Allstate as well as associate members CHUBB, CONNECT by American Family Insurance, and NAMIC) who collectively write the majority of personal lines auto and home insurance in California.

PIFC is pleased to support AB 926. This measure expands and clarifies the definition of fire prevention activities to include the removal of hazardous dead trees, and the creation of fuel breaks, community defensible spaces, and ingress and egress corridors. The bill would also require the Department of Forest and Fire Protection to prioritize projects that have a completed, or nearly completed, environmental review document.

PIFC has long supported legislation that encourages the creation of defensible space and fuel breaks around structures, which helps reduce wildfire risk and loss in our communities.

The local assistance grant program for fire prevention activities was established by AB 1956 (Limon, Chapter 632, Statutes of 2018), with the aim of improving fire prevention in California and ensuring that fire prevention activities happen year-round. AB 926 improves the program's transparency by requiring the Department of Forest and Fire Protection to publish a more comprehensive report which includes: the total amount of acreage treated by an awarded grant recipient, whether the project was awarded funding for vegetation management activities, the number of communities protected by an awarded project, and the total number of population receiving a benefit of the project.

AB 926 would increase community defensible space and fuel break mitigation programs, which is beneficial for all Californians. For this reason, PIFC **supports AB 926**. If you have any questions regarding PIFC's position, please call Seren Taylor at (916) 346-9427.

**Members:**

STATE FARM

LIBERTY MUTUAL

PROGRESSIVE

MERCURY

NATIONWIDE

FARMERS

ALLSTATE

**Associate Members:**

NAMIC

CHUBB

CONNECT  
by American Family

Cc: Assemblymember Devon Mathis, Author  
Lawrence Lingbloom, Chief Consultant, Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
Kirsten Kolpitcke, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus  
Hazel Miranda, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Michael Martinez, Senior Deputy Commissioner and Legislative Director, California Department of Insurance